

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06153 170959 Z

45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 SS-15 L-03

H-02 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 IGA-02 RSR-01 /175 W

----- 087804

R 710819 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3939

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USEC BRUSSELS 912

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6153

E. O.: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC

SUBJECT: FONMIN OHIRA' S CONVERSATIONS WITH EC OFFICIALS

1. AMB CALLED ON FONMIN OHIRA MAY 15 TO GET IMPRESSIONS OF HIS RECENT VISIT TO WESTERN EUROPE. THIS TELEGRAM REPORTS ON OHIRA' S

CONVERSATIONS WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY LEADERS IN BRUSSELS: BELGRADE AND PARIS VISITS ARE SUBJECT OF SEPTELS.

2. OHIRA SAID HE TALKED THREE HOURS WITH ORTOLI AND SOAMES, WITH MAIN FOCUS BEING FORTHCOMING ROUND OF TRADE TALKS.

3. SOAMES SAID EC SHOULD NEVER BECOME QTE INWARD LOOKING UNQTE AND THAT BASIC IDEA OF COMMUNITY IS TO ASSIST EXPANSION OF WORLD ECONOMY. OHIRA RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO EC POLICIES TOWARD AFRICAN AND MEDITERRANEAN NATIONS AND ASSOCIATING HIMSELF WITH US POSITION CRITICAL OF SUCH POLICIES INsofar AS THEY RESTRICT WORLD TRADE. EC SPOKESMEN REPLIED WITH ARGUMENT THAT EC HAD TO GIVE SPECIAL TREATMENT TO AFRICAN AND MEDITERRANEAN

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 06153 170959 Z

NATIONS BECAUSE OF HISTORICAL TIES BUT CLAIMED AMOUNT OF TRADE GIVEN SUCH SPECIAL TREATMENT IS NEGLIGIBLE. OHIRA SAID HE STILL COULD NOT AGREE WITH EXCEPTIONS BECAUSE THEY VIOLATE PRINCIPLE.

4. EC TEADERS EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR CLOSER CONTACTS WITH JAPAN. OHIRA REPLIED THERE IS NO NEED TO RESTRICT CONTACTS TO FORMAL MEETINGS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, RATHER CONTACTS SHOULD BE SO FREQUENT AS TO ESTABLISH CONSTANT DIALOGUE. OHIRA NOTED THAT DEP VICE MIN TSURUMI WILL VISIT BRUSSELS FOR TALKS WITH EC LEADERS IN JUNE. JAPAN WILL ALSO WELCOME SOAMES WHEN HE ATTENDS GATT CONFERENCE IN TOKYO IN SEPTEMBER. OHIRA ALSO INVITED ORTOLI TO VISIT JAPAN AT AN EARLY DATE.

5. EC TEADERS AGREED WITH OHIRA' S SUGGESTION THAT NEXT ROUND OF TALKS SHOULD MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS IN REDUCING TRADE BARRIERS, INCLUDING NTB' S. EC REPS MAINTAINED THERE ARE MANY COMPLAINTS ABOUT JAPANESE NTO' S OF WHICH JAPAN IS APPARENTLY UNAWARE. OHIRA SAID MANY SUCH CASES WERE RESULTS OF UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND COULD BE DEALT WITH ON CASE OY CASE BASIS AND WOULD WELCOME THEIR BEING BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF GOJ.
INGERSOLL

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